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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

High -4°C/Low -12°C Snow showers

Trudeau told Canada must do more for refugees
metroNEWS

223

Total collisions over the past five years at Ottawa's worst intersection

metroNEWS

DESIGN BY JASON LOGAN/METRO

A small token from transit in Gatineau

LABOUR DISPUTE

Beleaguered service offering 25% discount on monthly passes

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

La Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO) is offering riders discounts and will not provide service to Winterlude this coming weekend, all because of an ongoing labour dispute.

Drivers and mechanics have refused overtime and are reporting buses for repairs for even minor problems in the ongoing dispute, which has led to cancellations and delays in the system.

Céline Gauthier, a spokesperson for the agency, said they want to offer riders compensation by way of recognizing that the service has not been performing at its best.

"It's in order to compensate riders and to thank them for their loyalty," she said. "We want them to stay with us."

Multi-card users will get an automatic 25 per cent discount for monthly passes on the system, starting Wednesday. A regular fare on the pass will also drop from $3.40 to $2.50.

The STO is also suspending service to Winterlude events this weekend. The service normally runs a Sno-Bus from Ottawa to Jacques-Cartier Park, but drivers are not providing the necessary overtime for those shuttles.

While the union and the STO continue to negotiate, Gauthier said, they simply don't know if the dispute will be resolved soon and Winterlude begins on Thursday.

"We can not guarantee anything," she said. "We won't be able to offer the shuttle this year, but the public can use regular service."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Donald Trump chooses Neil Gorsuch as his Supreme Court nominee. **World**

POLITICS

Discord at Tory leader's meeting

Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown was primed to lambaste Liberal energy policies at a Stittsville rally Sunday, but ended up fending off several social conservatives.

The Glen pub's meeting room was packed and overflowed out the door to hear from host and Carleton candidate Goldie Ghamari and several others. Her big-tent message of party diversity in beliefs and viewpoints that will lead to a majority win in the next election was politely received by most. She slammed the federal Liberals as embracing less important differences like gender and ethnicity.

"We have diversity in our ideology, and that's what is important," said Ghamari, an international trade lawyer.

She was interrupted several times, notably by a self-described "angry white man" sporting a Make Ontario Great Again hat. Guy Annable shouted social conservative remarks while filming the meeting. Afterward, he said the ball cap, which resembles Donald Trump's Make America Great Again hats, doesn't mean he agrees with the U.S. president's tactics, but that a mainstream approach to politics is not working for many.

"Somebody's got to keep the conservative in this party," Annable told the crowd.

Others had a similar message for Brown, including Jay Tysick, who was denied a shot at the Carleton nomination by the party. He and several others ripped up their party membership cards at the meeting.

Another screamed, "You don't accept social conservatives" at Brown when it comes to the province's sexual-education program. Yet another demanded equal treatment for Quebec and Ontario workers.

Brown insisted there is plenty of room in the party, saying at the current pace membership numbers will top the 100,000 high set during the 1990s.

"In November and December, 44,000 new members joined the party," Brown said. "We are on the right track."

DEREK DUNN/METROLAND

Federal appointments
In the East region there are **32 judges and 13 supernumeraries**, with four vacancies.
Provincial appointments
In the East region there **29 judges and two vacancies** that need to be filled, one of which is around Ottawa.
The east region is an area spanning from Kingston to Ottawa.
Last year, the Ontario Crown Attorneys Association warned **judges could dismiss roughly 6,000 criminal cases throughout Ontario** because of mounting delays and a lack of judges.

GRAPHIC ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Criminal cases cancelled due to shortage of judges

JUSTICE

Defendants in Ottawa able to walk free without a trial

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

A soldier accused of killing and hiding a body. A 15-year-old charged with sexually assaulting a toddler at his mother's daycare. A playboy accused of defrauding thousands from ex-lovers.

Since November, Ottawa judges have let all three walk away without trial.

The dismissals and many others are the result of a court system overwhelmed by procedural delays, brought on in large part by a shortage of judges.

The federal and provincial governments have scrambled to appoint new judges, in a bid to address the shortage. But these appointment have only taken place in the past month, and the process of fully installing a judge on the bench takes at least six months.

Justice ministers at both levels are playing catchup in the wake of landmark Supreme Court ruling, issued in July, that defined an accused person's right to be tried within a reasonable timeframe: 18 months for provincial cases and 30 months for federal matters superior court.

Now, in a rush to get a measure of justice, both for those accused of and for victims of crimes, courts are booking civil suits like personal-injury cases years in advance.

Federally appointed judges deal with some of the most serious crimes, and they account for the most vacancies in Eastern Ontario.

Provincially appointed judges deal with less serious crimes, and they're better resourced.

E-COMMERCE

Shopify continues relationship with Breitbart News

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Shopify isn't disavowing Breitbart News.

The e-commerce company's COO, Harley Finkelstein, signed a letter last weekend condemning the Donald Trump administration, whose chief strategist is former Breitbart CEO Steve Bannon, over Friday's executive order suspending immigration for people from seven majority-Muslim countries.

But on Tuesday Shopify told Metro that it will continue to do business with Breitbart.

"Our position hasn't changed," spokesperson Sheryl So said.

Earlier this month, Shopify faced online criticism for hosting the unabashedly right-wing news outlet's online store. Merchandise on offer in the store includes T-shirts emblazoned with "Breitbart Border Patrol," "Border Wall Construction Co." It also sells a shirt with a silhouette of the U.S. and the words "Get in line."

A petition on Sumofus.org asking the e-commerce company to cut ties now has over 21,000 supporters. The petition notes that other companies, including Kelloggs, BMW and Visa have publicly refused to advertise with Breitbart News.

"Shopify is a common carrier, which means that if a merchant's business and the products it sells are legal in the jurisdiction where it is operating, the merchant is permitted on Shopify," said So, echoing a statement from earlier this month.

The online shop also includes merchandise with the Breitbart logo, including mugs, shirts and pins.

A T-shirt available for purchase on Breitbart's webstore.
CONTRIBUTED

EDUCATION

College backs down over president's pay

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

"We heard the deputy premier loud and clear."

That's the word from Algonquin College's executive director of communications, Scott Anderson after the province told it and many other colleges to take another swing at a new executive pay framework.

With a five-year freeze on the salaries of public executives set to end this year, publicly assisted colleges were instructed to put together a framework on compensation for executives.

The Algonquin College framework suggested a potential pay increase of up to $124,000 for its president, Cheryl Jensen, which amounts to 38 per cent of her current salary: about $321,000 annually.

Under the framework, the pay of other executives, including Anderson, could go up to $303,000.

The pay framework is meant to be based on the pay that other executives get at similar institutions of similar sizes.

Though Anderson stressed in previous reports that executives would not in practice get paid that amount as a large portion of it is based on performance, the deputy premier and Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews rejected Algonquin College's framework, as well as that of several others.

"The government has told the colleges to reconsider 'the comparators' that they used in these plans," said Tanya Blazina, media relations person with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. "In particular, there is concern about college executive compensation programs that are not focused on a comparison to other Canadian colleges or other organizations of the same similar size and complexity."

> **We believe in decent wages for all workers, but what is being proposed bears no relation to reality.**
> Pat Kennedy

Though the Algonquin College Students' Association has not responded to Metro about the proposed pay increases, the union president representing Algonquin College faculty, Pat Kennedy, called them "mind-boggling."

"We believe in decent wages for all workers, but what is being proposed bears no relation to reality," said Kennedy in a press release, adding that the most recent wage increase for full-time faculty was 1.8 per cent.

Though the public comment period for this first compensation framework remains open Wednesday, Anderson said the college is working on a new framework, which will also be open to public comments when it is drafted.

Colleges have until September this year to complete the process of creating a new executive pay framework.

Cheryl Jensen
COURTESY ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

WINTER FUN SKATERS TAKE ADVANTAGE of the partially open canal on Tuesday. The cold snap is welcome this time of year in preparation for Winterlude festivities. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Let more refugees in, advocates say

MUSLIM BAN

Government refuses to increase admissions

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

As the U.S. slams its doors on refugees, Canada and other nations will have to open their doors wider, advocates are arguing.

President Donald Trump's executive order that banned citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries from travelling to the United States also suspended the U.S. refugee resettlement process for 120 days.

Trump also reduced the number of refugees the U.S. will take next year from at least 110,000 down to no more than 50,000, and suspended any refugees from Syria indefinitely.

Donald Smith, chair of the refugee working group for the Ottawa Anglican Diocese, said that has huge implications.

"The Syrians are the single largest refugee population in the world," he said. "When you say that we're going to exclude the largest single national group, that says something very significant."

Canada has a target to admit 25,000 refugees in 2017. Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen said that's already a high number.

"Our immigration-levels plan has an allocation that is historically high for refugees. We intend to maintain that plan, make sure that there's room in there," he said.

Smith said the United Nations High Commission on Refugees has targets in mind, based on what countries have agreed to.

"My guess is they will be asking Canada to step up and take some more of those," he said. "Canada has the capacity to take in more if we had the political will."

The NDP's Immigration critic, Jenny Kwan, said Trump's ban is an affront to Canadian values of openness and diversity.

"Canadians, we know, are staunch defenders and supporters of human rights. The ban that brought forward undermines Canadian values," she said.

Her party is calling for the government to immediately lift a cap on privately sponsored refugees, to fast-track refugees who were approved to go to the U.S. before the ban took place, to work with the international community on an increased number of refugees, to get greater assurance for Canadian dual citizens that they will not be hit by the ban and to suspend the safe-third-country agreement with the United States.

That agreement rejects refugees claimants from Canada if they have already been rejected by the United States. The NDP said that deal was predicated on the idea claimants had a fair hearing in the U.S., which is no longer the case.

Kwan said she wouldn't have thought measures like this would ever be needed, but Trump's ban is so outside international norms.

"I never imagined in my entire life that I would witness a democratic country, much less our closest ally and our neighbour next door, would come forward with a ban based on religion or a ban based on place of birth."

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Volume is the 'culprit'

ROAD SAFETY

Hunt Club, Riverside tops list of worst intersections

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

The city's latest report on high-collision intersections shows many repeat offenders, with Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive repeatedly topping the list.

Every winter, the city gets a report with a top 10 list of worst signalized intersections based on the number of collisions. In the last five years, Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive has been number one four times, including this year.

Injuries due to those collisions were classified as minimal or minor, but most on the top 10 list are.

But Hunt Club and Riverside is hardly the end of the list of usual suspects.

Intersections like Innes and Tenth Line roads, St. Laurent Boulevard, Coventry and Ogilvie roads and several others have been in the top 10 multiple times since 2010.

Riley Brockington, councillor for River Ward, which includes Hunt Club and Riverside, said, at that intersection, "the number one culprit is volume."

According to city numbers, Hunt Club and Riverside is the highest volume intersection of all those in the top 10 list, with 80,000 vehicles travelling through it per day.

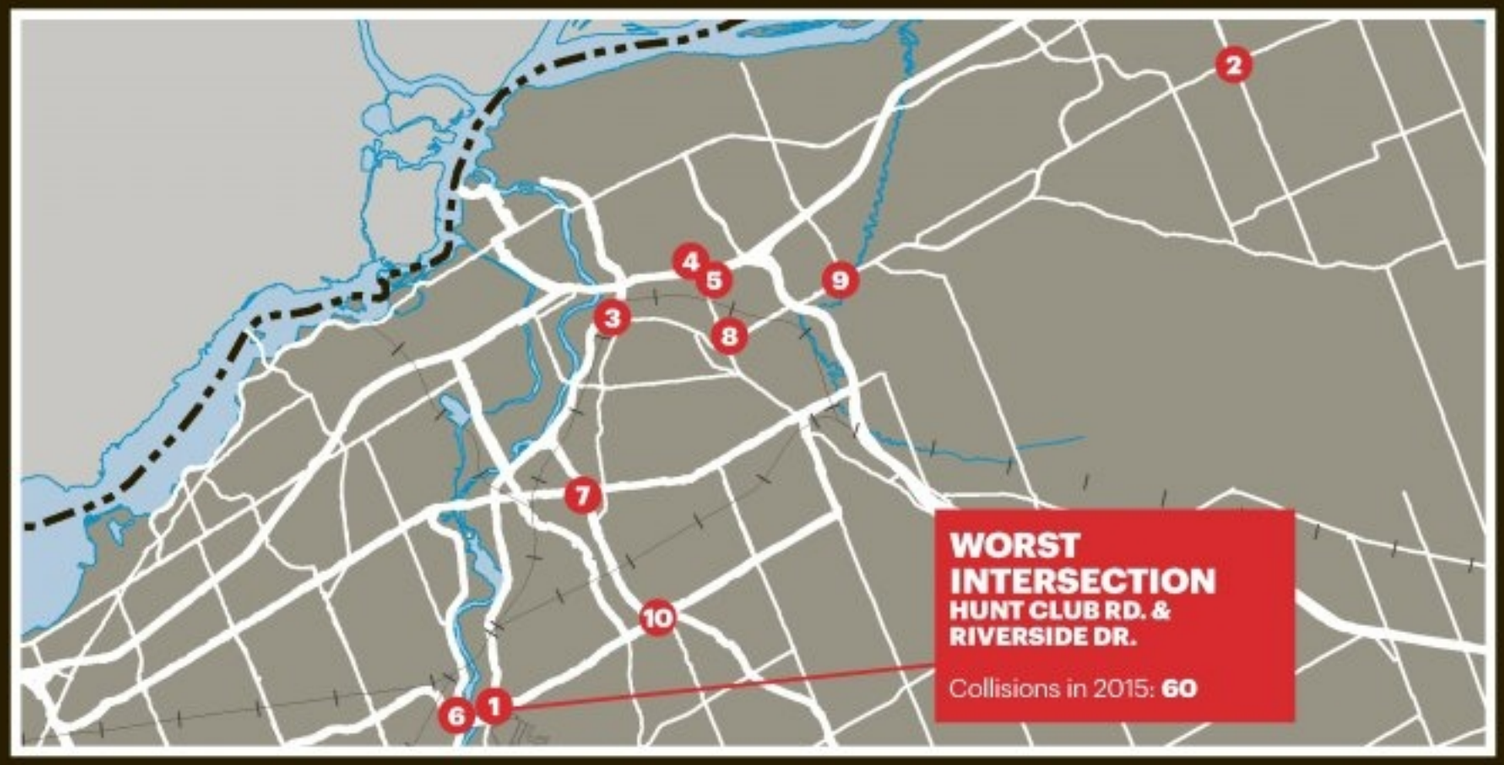
Though no "geometric changes" to the intersection have been made in the last four years, the city said design work is currently underway to extend a westbound left turn lane, and that a more detailed review is being undertaken to determine the cause of the collisions and what changes could be made.

Of the 60 collisions at that intersection in 2015, 51 were rear-enders, said the city.

MAPPED

OTTAWA'S WORST INTERSECTIONS

The city released its annual list of danger zones this week



THE OTHER 9

2 **INNES RD. & TENTH LINE RD.** Collisions: **49**

3 **INDUSTRIAL AVE & RIVERSIDE DR.** Collisions: **39**

4 **ST.LAURENT BLVD & COVENTRY RD. / OGILVIE RD.** Collisions: **38**

5 **DONALD ST. & ST.LAURENT BLVD.** Collisions: **36**

6 **PRINCE OF WALES DR. & WEST HUNT CLUB RD.** Collisions: **36**

7 **BANK ST. & HERON RD.** Collisions: **35**

8 **INDUSTRIAL AVE. / INNES RD. & ST.LAURENT BLVD.** Collisions: **33**

9 **BLAIR RD. & INNES RD.** Collisions: **33**

10 **BANK ST. & HUNT CLUB RD.** Collisions: **33**

VIDEO GAMES

Gaming Expo powering up in 2017 with new organizer

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

This year's Capital Gaming Expo isn't going to be all fun and games. New owner and organizer Jillian Mood is attracting industry speakers and giving attendees the knowledge to level up their own game-making studios.

In previous years the expo has been aimed at video game customers — those who buy and play the games — not those who create them.

This year Mood wants to bring both groups together.

"There's going to be companies from all over Canada demo-ing their games and their technology and their VR products. From the small indie studio right up to the big massive AAA studios," she said.

"The conference will have a lot of those CEOs of some of the top companies in Canada who will come to speak and share their knowledge with the crowd. How to start a studio, how to get funding, how to find a team, how to market," she said.

The guest speakers already lined up include Isabelle Tremblay from Square Enix, Jason Della Rocca of Execution Labs and Ben Kane of local Steel Crate games.

Making the conference inclusive is a priority for Mood and her team. Ticket prices are being kept low to encourage attendance.

Last year Mood powered up Girl Force, a program in Ottawa that encourages young women to delve into programming and design to create their own games.

The Expo will be the first time Girl Force meets up with similar groups: Montreal's Pixelles and Toronto's Dames Making Games.

"We're all going to be together for the first time, really showcasing this initiative and bringing awareness and hopefully motivating other people to get involved," she said.

The conference takes place in April, and will be followed by the Canadian Video Game Awards being presented in Ottawa in November. Mood hopes the big events will help bring attention to the growing industry in Ottawa.

"One of the major goals of the conference is to showcase what Ottawa — and Canada — is producing," said Mood.

"The other goal is to be growing this conference and helping put us on the map. We have been on the map for a while but we don't talk about it enough."

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DEVELOPMENT

Nine-storey building proposed in Hintonburg

The owner of a property on Wellington Street West near the O-Train tracks wants to turn a two-storey office building into a nine-storey mixed-use development, the city says.

The irregularly shaped parcel of land is located where Wellington Street turns into Somerset Street at Garland Street.

The city says the unnamed developer wants to build 57 residential units in addition to retail space at ground level.

The proposed project, which requires zoning and an official plan amendment to proceed, is symbolic of the gentrification — and condo projects — that have creeped eastward from Westboro, along Wellington Street West, through Hintonburg.

One block away, Windmill Developments recently turned an auto dealer lot into the six-storey Eddy condominium building.

OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

IN BRIEF

Sarah McLachlan to be honoured at Junos

Sarah McLachlan is joining the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences says the "Building a Mystery" songstress will be this year's inductee into the space celebrating some of the country's most influential musicians.

She'll also be honoured with a tribute during the Juno Awards, which take place at Ottawa's Canadian Tire Centre on April 2.

METRO

150 ways of looking at Canada

POSTCARD #1

LONSDALE QUAY, VANCOUVER, B.C.

I TOOK THIS PHOTO AT LONSDALE QUAY, NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C., SEEING DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1987. I WAS THERE WITH MY HUSBAND ON OUR HONEYMOON, AND WE WENT BACK TO JAPAN THE NEXT DAY WITHOUT EXPECTING WE WOULD COME TO CANADA 24 YEARS LATER. **MAYUMI HIGUCHI, VANCOUVER**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the county, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. You can get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. You can email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

It's curtains for Othello

ALBERTA

Threats follow casting of woman in lead, theatre says

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

An actress slated to play Othello in a controversial Edmonton theatre production has apologized after the show was cancelled.

Walterdale Theatre announced late Monday that it was cancelling the production after actors were threatened over the casting of a white woman in the lead role.

The role, that of a powerful Moorish general of the Venetian army, is traditionally played by a man of colour.

Linette Smith posted to Facebook Tuesday that she made a mistake by accepting the role.

"I am so sorry and I own it 100%. I did not think through in the accepting of Othello and the impact and pain it would cause," she wrote, adding her choice set a bad example and she is grateful for the conversation that has happened as a result of the controversy.

"I pledge to do better, to grow and heighten my awareness and sensitivity and understanding of privilege," she wrote.

Edmonton Police Service spokesman Scott Pattison said an individual from the Walterdale Theatre who allegedly received online threats met with an EPS constable Tuesday but chose not to file a formal complaint.

Walterdale Theatre says it received threats over the casting of a white woman, Linette J. Smith, in the title role. SUPPLIED

SEX ASSAULT CASE

Man acquitted, woman's credibility questioned

A man who was tried for a second time after a judge made controversial comments at the original trial has again been found not guilty of sexual assault.

Alexander Wagar, 29, smiled after the verdict Tuesday and yelled "yeah" as he left the Calgary courtroom.

Wager was acquitted in 2014 by Judge Robin Camp, who ruled Wagar was a more credible witness than the 19-year-old woman making the allegation. Camp called the woman "the accused" throughout that trial and asked her why she couldn't keep her knees together.

The Alberta Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal and ordered a new trial. The judge hearing the retrial, Justice Gerry LeGrandeur, said after considering the testimony of both the woman and the accused, he was left with reasonable doubt that a sexual assault happened.

LeGrandeur said the case has drawn a lot of public interest and sympathy, but the Crown had not proven the charge.

He said the complainant continually said she didn't remember events and that "raises a serious credibility issue."

LeGrandeur said Wagar was candid and the judge did not consider his testimony to be "incredible or implausible."

Wagar's lawyer said in his closing arguments that there was evasiveness in the complainant's testimony. Pat Flynn called it a "consensual sex act between two young adults" and it was only afterward that the woman changed her mind.

"To be honest with the court, this is almost a buyer's remorse type of situation."

Crown prosecutor Janice Walsh said the defence brought forward an outdated version of a "woman scorned."

"That rape myth and stereotype — a woman who has engaged in sexual conduct would then become a vengeful or vindictive liar," she said in her closing arguments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GOVERNMENT

Parliament debates Trump's Muslim ban

The Liberal government is holding the line on its immigration and refugee policy in the wake of the U.S. travel ban, but leaving the door open to future adjustments as they continue to study the far-reaching - and fast-changing - implications.

"We have a very robust and welcoming refugee system," Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen said Tuesday.

"We don't develop policy on the fly. We have to make sure that we understand all the implications, to make sure that we stick to our numbers and make sure that we develop policy after careful consideration of all the implications."

The Liberal cabinet minister was responding to calls - including from the New Democrats - to do more to fill the gaps left by U.S. President Donald Trump's temporary immigration ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries and his indefinite bar to Syrian refugees.

"Canada must step up to do its part," said NDP immigration critic Jenny Kwan. "There is much more that Canada can do and must do."

At Kwan's request, MPs held an emergency debate Tuesday evening on the U.S. travel ban and how Canada should respond.

In the debate, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair urged the government to lift an "artificial, arbitrary" cap on the number of Syrian refugees who can be brought to Canada through private sponsorships, which is currently set at 1,000 applications — a target that was reached over the weekend.

"A cap such as this one, especially when the United States has banned admission to Syrian refugees for an indeterminate time is completely unacceptable and goes against the international law that has been advocated since the Second World War," Mulcair said.

In a weekend tweet that was seen as a thinly veiled response to Trump's measures, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promoted Canada as a country that welcomes refugees, no matter their religion, and considers the diversity of its people to be a strength.

During question period on Tuesday, Mulcair asked Trudeau whether he plans to denounce the U.S. travel ban when he meets Trump.

"Canadians expect their prime minister to stand up for their values, for our principles, and to advocate compassion and generosity," Trudeau replied. "I am here to defend Canadian values and I will do so loudly and clearly."

Trudeau and Trump are indeed expected to meet at some point in the coming days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair urged the Liberals to lift a cap on the number of privately sponsored Syrian refugees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Azzedine Najd and Fadwa Achmaoui stand by a memorial near their mosque which was site of a deadly shooting on Tuesday in Quebec City. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muslim community struggling with shock

QUEBEC CITY

Families of victims relying on charitable donations

Ahmed Ech-Chahedy was standing about 30 metres away when the gunfire started.

The man carried an "assault rifle," he said. He took his time. And his face was not covered — contrary to early reports, he said in an interview.

Ech-Chahedy, a taekwando instructor, was with his son and one of the boy's friends, when the shooter entered the mosque.

"If I think about it, it probably lasted five or six minutes," said Ech-Chahedy, who managed to flee the building and shelter in a nearby restaurant. "It was planned because even the way he fired at people—he was calm."

Police investigating the terror attack at a Quebec City mosque have received witness accounts that an individual matching the description of the shooter was seen outside the building several days prior to the shooting.

Mohamed Labidi, the vice president of the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec, told Torstar that, during a Monday night meeting, one member of the Muslim community claimed to have been approached a few days earlier by an individual who was asking for money.

Labidi said they claimed that the person was in fact the alleged killer, 27-year-old Alexandre Bissonnette, who is charged with six counts of murder and five counts of attempted murder.

The consequences of the shooter's actions are known now to all: Six men are dead while two more remain in hospital in critical but stable condition.

But a Muslim community that is still struggling with shock and grief is also now being forced to cope with the administration of a murderous tragedy that has widowed and orphaned women and children and ripped apart families and friendships.

So far, the families of the dead are relying on charitable donations from organizations like Islamic Relief, which sent a team of people from Montreal and the Toronto area to assess the needs and coordinate delivery of the necessary support.

In a six-storey apartment building a short drive from the mosque where Ibrahima Barry, 39, and Mamadou Tanou Barry, 42, had gone together to pray, the halls of the fifth and sixth floors were strewn with boots and crowded with women bringing food and men making telephone calls and offering handshakes of condolence.

Among them was Mamoudou Afia Barry, the older brother of Mamadou Tanou, who had just arrived in town from his home in Columbus, Ohio, and was being briefed on what help and arrangements the Guinean community in Quebec City had already offered and what else was available.

"The decision we have to make is whether to take his body back (to Guinea) or have the funeral here, since his mom is here and his wife and kids are here," he said. "That's what we are trying to figure out right now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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MARKETING

IN BRIEF

Amnesty calls for action

Amnesty Canada has joined the chorus of activists asking the federal government to repeal its Safe Third Country Agreement with the U.S. in light of an executive order banning travel from seven Muslim countries. "The United States is failing to protect refugees," says a statement on Amnesty's website. The organization is asking supporters to reach out to their MPs and express their views.

METRO

PMO slams Fox News for wrong tweet about mosque shooting in Quebec City

One of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's senior officials is taking Fox News to task for describing the alleged gunman in the Quebec City shooting as Moroccan.

Kate Purchase, director of communications in the Prime Minister's Office, pointed out the "false and misleading language" in a letter to Fox News Channel co-president Bill Shine that was released to the media Tuesday.

"Canada is an open, welcoming country that stands by its citizens," Purchase wrote in the letter, which goes well beyond simply asking for a correction.

"We are a nation of millions of immigrants and refugees, of hundreds of cultures, languages and religions bound by one, unwavering, unshakable belief: we are stronger not in spite of our differences, but because of them.

"These tweets by Fox News dishonour the memory of the six victims and their families by spreading misinformation, playing identity politics, and perpetuating fear and division within our communities."

The tweet appeared to be a consequence of early police reports in the wake of the shooting that said two suspects had been taken into custody. Later reports said one of those people was not a suspect, but a witness.

Purchase noted the tweet appeared early Monday afternoon, but has yet to be deleted despite the fact police have confirmed that the sole suspect, Alexandre Bissonnette, is a 27-year-old man of French-Canadian origin.

By early Tuesday evening, the tweet had been retweeted more than 900 times, and liked about 1,600 times. It also had about 7,200 replies, many of them pointing out the inaccuracy and calling for a correction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donald Trump's administration: *Muslim ban*

E.U. President Donald Tusk, right, said the Trump administration is part of an external "threat," together with China, Russia, radical Islam, war and terror. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Academics speak out against ban

More than 4,000 university professors, administrators and researchers have signed a petition to boycott international academic conferences in the U.S. to show solidarity with Muslim colleagues affected by U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban.

"It is a support to our (Muslim) colleagues in this beleaguered time," said Haroon Akram-Lodhi, an economics and international development studies professor at Trent University in Peterborough, one of many Canadian academics on board.

Another online petition denouncing the ban led by American academics has collected more than 18,000 signatures, including 50 Nobel Laureates.

A National Science Foundation report found 5.2 million of the 29 million scientists and engineers in the U.S. are immigrants.

"The order institutionalizes racism, and fosters an environment in which people racialised as Muslim are vulnerable to ongoing and intensifying acts of violence and hatred," said the petition.

"Among those affected by the order are academics and students who are unable to participate in conferences and the free communication of ideas. We the undersigned take action in solidarity with those affected."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Budweiser plunges into immigration debate

In a commercial slated to air this Sunday during the NFL championship, Budweiser tells the story of its co-founder, Adolphus Busch, who immigrated from Germany in 1857. He braved a long voyage and xenophobia. "When nothing stops your dream," says the tagline. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Europe calls U.S. a 'threat'

POLITICS

EU chief groups ally with Russia and China

The leader of the European Union put longtime ally the United States in a "threat" category on Tuesday, insisting that President Donald Trump is contributing to the "highly unpredictable" outlook for the bloc.

In a letter to 27 EU leaders before Friday's summit in Malta, EU President Donald Tusk mentioned the Trump administration as part of an external "threat" together with China, Russia, radical Islam, war and terror.

Echoing statements from many European capitals, he said that those global challenges, "as well as worrying declarations by the new American administration, all make our future highly unpredictable."

He said that "particularly the change in Washington puts the European Union in a difficult situation; with the new administration seeming to put into question the last 70 years of American foreign policy."

This year marks the centennial of the U.S. entry in the First World War, and it marked the beginning of the American century as well as the enduring trans-Atlantic bond with Europe. Tensions have risen though since Trump was elected U.S. president.

"We should remind our American friends of their own motto: United we stand, divided we fall," Tusk said in the letter.

Britain wasn't part of the letter since it is poised to leave the EU and is only scheduled to attend part of the leaders' meeting in La Valletta. The decision to leave was the biggest setback for the EU in decades, and Trump didn't endear himself with many EU leaders by saying that Brexit "will be a tremendous asset and not a tremendous liability."

Tusk wrote: "In politics, the argument of dignity must not be overused," before adding that "today we must stand up very clearly for our dignity, the dignity of a united Europe."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump announces Supreme Court pick

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated federal appeals judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

Trump made the announcement Tuesday in a prime-time address from the White House.

The 49-year-old Gorsuch served on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver since 2006, after being appointed by President George W. Bush. He once worked at the Supreme Court as a law clerk.

If approved by the Senate, Gorsuch would take the seat left vacant since Justice Antonin Scalia died last year. Republicans refused to consider Barack Obama's nominee for the seat, saying the choice should go Obama's successor.

Gorsuch would be the youngest justice since Clarence Thomas joined the court in 1991 at age 43.

Donald Trump and Neil Gorsuch at a televised address Tuesday. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, February 1, 2017

STEP UP YOUR METROGUIDE TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

For Canadian Muslims, being feared, suspected or even threatened with violence can be a daily reality. **Amal Rana**, a Vancouver-based Muslim poet, educator and community organizer, shared five practical ways to show you won't stand for it — and that you care.

Speak up

Show your public support by writing your MP and provincial rep to encourage them to support legislation that benefits immigrants and refugees and fights Islamophobia.

It's important to do systematic things as well.

Create safety

Talk to local business owners about making your neighbourhood coffee shop, corner store or restaurant into a "safer zone" where people know they can take shelter if they're feeling harassed.

A 'refugees welcome' poster is a good first step.

Listen

Around the country, it's time to start "hard conversations" around dinner tables and in classrooms. Talk one-on-one about the real-life experience of Islamophobia and the negative stereotypes people hold about Islam. Just get the dialogue started.

You don't have to do it perfectly.

Check in

Look in on your Muslim neighbours and see if there's anything they need: some company, a walk to school or work, or a hand with the kids. This week of terrible news has been "deeply traumatic" Rana said, and trauma tends to be isolating. Being a friend can lighten the load.

I worry about the impact on not just our mental and spiritual health, but on our bodies.

Connect

If you attend a vigil or demonstration to condemn Islamophobia, don't just stand there: connect. "People often show up, but don't actually make contact with people there," Rana said. So introduce yourself.

That's where the meaningful, long-term support comes from. Once you've connected with each other, you can provide more personal support as well.

Most of your Trump jokes are seriously unfunny

David Berry

Among the cries of anguish and howls of outrage that have greeted Donald Trump's first, horrific week in office, there is still a persistent and pernicious sound emanating from his opposition: a haughty snicker. It is working to steadily undermine the edifices that are being built against policy pronouncements that have ranged from hideously short-sighted to openly opposed to the very spirit of free democratic society.

The giggle is unmistakable precisely because it was ever-present in the 18 months it took for Trump to go from laughingstock to leader of the free world (if we can still properly call it that, by the time he's done). It was the sound of "Drumpf" and every bad barroom impersonation, the snide chuckle that followed every mention of his ridiculous hair or allegiance to Omarosa.

If Trump's election, the very thing that seemed so laughable, choked it for a while, the complacency that has attended his actual ascent has allowed it to sneak back in. It came as a rising chuckle that he couldn't even get a Bruce Springsteen tribute band to play at his inauguration party. It sounded like a sharp snort as we shared side-by-side photos of his and Obama's swearing-in ceremonies. It sputtered up when we suggest he needed to hold Theresa May's hand because of his supposed fear of stairs.

These weak stabs at humour are not satire, an attempt to cast Trump in dark relief to reveal some underlying truth. They are its exact opposite: a fearful response to the reality of his stature, a blind hope that we might reduce it with a cutting remark. They replace a raised fist or finger with side-eye, something that might help the enlightened recognize and congratulate one another on their good taste.

The best that could be said about this tendency is it's a coping mechanism: We would rather feel above-it-all than angry or drowning in despair.

Politics are not a roast battle, least of all when the pillars of our liberal democratic political order are being sledgehammered. It might give you a momentary thrill to mock the hand size of the man doing the swinging. But however good your bon mots may make you feel, they haven't yet encouraged him to stop.

David Berry is a humour writer and cultural critic.

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Arnold Schwarzenegger blasted President Donald Trump's administration for making the United States look "stupid" with the travel ban.

SEE THE VIDEO ON THE METRO NEWS APP

Don't fear the kitchen

RECIPES

These simple dishes can get all new chefs up and cooking

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you've never learned to cook beyond opening a can, fear not. We're here with some easy recipes everyone needs in their back pocket to get started. Now all you need to do is put some music on, pour yourself a glass of wine and get cooking.

Pasta

It's impossible to build a cooking rolodex (does anyone still have a rolodex?) without a kick-ass pasta dish. Here is that dish.

Aside from the joy a bowl of pasta brings to a belly, most dishes are easy to prepare since many noodles cook up quicker than it takes to wait for the water to boil. Also, pasta is a great foundation for any kind of flavour profile and is a complete meal in itself.

We love this **Creamy Pea Tagliatelle** for it's breezy but impressive sauce.

Makes: 4 servings; Prep time: 10 minutes; Cook time: 20 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 500 g tagliatelle pasta
- 2 cups frozen peas
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup creme fraiche
- 3 tsp chopped chives or flat-leaf parsley

Directions:

1. Cook the tagliatelle according to package directions. In the last minute of the pasta cooking process, drop the peas into the water. Drain both the pasta and peas.

2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat the oil and sauté the onion and garlic for 5 minutes until fragrant. Stir in the creme fraiche. Add the pasta and peas, folding them with tongs to coat the pasta with the sauce. Sprinkle with chopped chives or flat-leaf parsley and serve.

There's no need to feel intimidated by any of these three simple and scrumptious dishes to get beginners cooking: (clockwise from top) Chinese 5-Spice Chicken Tray Bake, Creamy Pea Tagliatelle and Broccoli and Cheese Soup. PHOTOS: MAYA VISNYEI

Chicken

There's a reason chicken dishes are the most searched recipes on food websites. As proteins go, they're a great canvas for sflavours and easy to prepare.

This **Chinese 5-Spice Chicken Tray Bake** uses less-expensive thighs for budget-sensitive novices, and it features a cooking method ideal for new chefs — tray baking.

Allowing all your meal's ingredients to cook on the same baking sheet not only makes meal prep easier but, frankly, is a smart way to cook.

Makes: 4 servings; Prep time: 1 hour; Cook time: 20 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 3 Tbsp olive oil, plus extra for onions
- 4 to 5 garlic cloves, pressed
- 1 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp Chinese 5-spice
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 large skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 2 onions, peeled and sliced
- 1 tsp fresh chopped cilantro

Directions:

1. Combine olive oil, garlic, rice vinegar, brown sugar, 5-spice and salt in a large resealable plastic bag. Add chicken thighs; seal and coat chicken with sauce. Chill at least 1 hour or overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 400. Slice and coat onion in a bit of olive oil. Spray baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray. Scatter onion slices on baking sheet.

3. Remove chicken from refrigerator and arrange on top of onion. Roast until chicken is cooked through, about 20 minutes.

4. Remove tray from oven and let cool for a few minutes. Sprinkle chicken and onion with cilantro and serve warm.

Soup

Let's be honest, you can't live in Canada and not have a soup dish you can call your own. And, yes, you should definitely take credit for this easy **Broccoli and Cheese Soup**.

SPICE RACK

Making delicious meals is simpler when you have a small but potent spice rack. Here's what you need beyond good old S&P.

- Chili Powder
- Cumin
- Cinnamon
- Curry Blend
- Dried Bay Leaves
- Dried Oregano

In addition to travelling well for lunches or snacks, soups use up lots of leftovers and can handle any amount of vegetables you can jam into them.

Plus, like this one, they only benefit from the addition of cheese.

Makes 4 servings; Prep time: 10 minutes; Cook time: 25 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups broccoli florets and stem (cut off tough ends) chopped fairly small
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cups chopped, potato
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 glug olive oil
- 4 cups stock (vegetable or chicken, low sodium)
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup grated cheddar
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan

salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Sauté onion and garlic in a Dutch oven or other large, heavy-bottomed pot for about 5 minutes until soft.

2. Add vegetables and stock and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes until the vegetables are tender.

3. In small batches, ladle the broth and vegetables into your blender and puree. Pour each batch into a bowl as you go. Pour the puree back into your pot.

4. Over medium heat add milk and cheese and stir until the cheese melts. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Call for ban on adverts to battle rising childhood obesity rates

INDUSTRY CRITICISM

New report wants federal help in fight to limit marketing

In an effort to combat the rising tide of childhood obesity and promote healthier eating, the Heart and Stroke Foundation is calling on the federal government to pass legislation restricting food and beverage marketing to children.

"Given experts' prediction that today's children may be the first generation to have poorer health and shorter lifespans than their parents, we need to be bold," writes Diego Marchese, interim CEO and executive vice-president of Heart and Stroke, in the 2017 Report on the Health of Canadians released Wednesday.

Obesity rates in Canadian children have tripled since 1979 — one in three kids are now overweight or obese — putting them at greater risk for developing health problems such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and diabetes, the report notes. It argues that restrictions on marketing to those under 16 would protect children, support parents and level the playing field for industry.

Children and teens are bombarded with ads for restaurants, cakes, cookies, cereal, ice cream and much more. ISTOCK

Industry's efforts over the past decade to self-regulate, through the Canadian Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative, have been "a failure," says the report. "As long as regulation is optional, the playing field is not even. Even if the criteria were strong, companies that comply and put children's health first would be at a competitive disadvantage."

Calls for regulations have been made before. Heart and Stroke is part of the Stop Marketing to Kids Coalition started in 2014, which is made up of 11 non-governmental organizations, including Toronto Public Health.

And Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in his 2015 mandate letter to Minister of Health Jane Philpott, said he expects her to promote public health by "introducing new restrictions on the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children, similar to those now in place in Quebec."

The report also highlights Quebec, which has the highest vegetable and fruit intake among Canadian children and the lowest obesity rate among those aged 6 to 11. Legislation introduced there in 1980 banned commercial ads of goods and services to kids under age 13.

For its report, the foundation commissioned Monique Potvin Kent, an expert in food and beverage marketing to children. She reviewed the digital ads shown over a year on the top 10 websites aimed at children between the ages 2 and 11, and youth aged 12 to 17. Her research shows that more than 90 per cent of online food and beverage ads seen by children and teens are for unhealthy items high in fat, sodium or sugar.

Children and teens are bombarded with ads for restaurants, cakes, cookies, ice cream, cereal and sugar-sweetened beverages.

"There are many ads on TV directed at kids and it's even higher for teens, but there are only so many spots available, there is a limit," writes Potvin Kent, who is an assistant professor in the University of Ottawa's School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine. "On the Internet, there are absolutely no limits."

25 million

The study found children between the ages of 2 and 11 see 25 million food and beverage ads, on their 10 favourite websites in a year.

Also included in the report was a survey of 2,401 Canadian adults interviewed online by Pollara Strategic Insights. It found that 70 per cent feel children are exposed to too many ads by the food and beverage industry, and 71 per cent think industry has an unfair advantage over parents when it comes to influencing what kids consume due to how much money it spends on ads.

David Ma, an associate professor at the University of Guelph's department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, welcomes the initiative. But, he adds, "There's no magic bullet."

"If (legislation) were implemented, obesity wouldn't go away overnight," Ma said. "If enacted, this would be one part of an overall strategy that we need to implement."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: A national staple that needs to be taken in moderation

A small dessert can be a heavy hitter when it comes to calories, fat and sugar.

PICK THIS

Annette's Glazed Donuts (1 donut)

Calories 190
Fat 8g
Saturated Fat 3.5g
Sugar 9g

SKIP THIS

Farmer's Market Pecan Butter Tarts (1 tart)

Calories 360
Fat 17g
Saturated Fat 6g
Sugar 24g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent in calories to a Wendy's Ultimate Chicken Grill Sandwich.

Butter tarts are a Canadian staple. The buttery, flaky crusts made predominately with shortening (which consists of palm oil and margarine), sugar and corn syrup give these petite desserts their nutritional weight. You can save half the calories, fat and saturated fat, as well as almost 2/3 of the sugar, by having a simple mini glazed donut that's made with less oil and sugar.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

From niche to Masters of Canada's whisky universe

While it's an honour to be nominated, winning is a lot more fun. By the looks of the pictures posted after the Canadian Whisky Awards in B.C. last week the makers of Masterson's 10 Years Old Straight Rye ($85.61-$105.70) would agree.

Named 2017's Canadian Whisky of the Year, Masterson's has gone from boutique tipple to the most sought-after spirit in the country virtually overnight. That's not the reason why finding a bottle of the award winner will be challenging.

Like many artisan spirits Masterson's is produced in small batches. In broad terms a batch to a whisky is what a vintage is to a wine. Though the name remains the same for both, the flavour profile will vary depending on the harvest for wine and distillation run for whisky.

Though the bottle I tried was from batch 001 (a winner in my book) it was batch PSA3-0035 you'll want to look for. That was the liquid that won Masterson's the prize.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Mary (Caroline Dhavernas, right) and Jess (Abigail Winter). CONTRIBUTED

The vibe is what really kills it

THE SHOW: Mary Kills People, Season 1, Episode 2
THE MOMENT: The stoop

Dr. Mary Harris (Caroline Dhavernas) secretly euthanizes terminal patients. Her quietly smart teenage daughter Jess (Abigail Winter) and Jess's minxy bestie Naomi (Katie Douglas) found a stash of Mary's drugs. Naomi tried some. Jess, who loves Naomi more than platonically, didn't like that. Now they're sitting side by side on a stoop.

"I hate when you're mad at me," Naomi says, snuggling against Jess. "Where'd you go last night?"

"I left because I hate watching you be a train wreck," Jess replies.

"The cocaine wasn't even that good," Naomi says. "Feel my heart." She puts Jess's hand on her chest and holds it there. Jess tries to hide her trembling.

Jess promises not to rat out Naomi if Naomi stops doing drugs. "You sound like your mom," Naomi says. "She knows about this?" Jess asks.

"Oh, yeah," Naomi says. "She totally covered for me, too."

What prevents the plot of this six-part miniseries from becoming repetitive — patients want to die so Mary kills them — is how imperiled Mary's relationships are by her actions. The vibe between these two is especially fascinating, thanks to the nuanced dance of Winter and Douglas.

Naomi = Trouble and it's not easy to play that without falling into clichés. But Douglas knows exactly when to make eye contact or touch Winter, and when to look or pull away. She draws her in with sincerity, then dominates her with her superior coolness. And that last little touch: undermining Jess's trust in her mother, before flouncing off to breakfast? Perfect.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

New McLaren 720S leaked ahead of rumoured Geneva debut

Completely powered by electrons

REVIEW

Bolt a fairly affordable entrance to the EV market

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Don't let the popularity of the Tesla Model S fool you: Electric vehicles aren't selling as well as perhaps they should be.

Get past range anxiety and long charging times, and the astronomical upfront cost of EV ownership is no doubt keeping plenty of potential buyers away. Automakers know this all too well, and a handful are working on electrified solutions that fit the needs — and budgets — of the masses. And the first of this new class of relatively affordable, everyday-friendly EVs to hit the market is the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt. Aside from its confounding name — conversations about the car invariably include descriptors like "that's Bolt with a 'B'" for clarity's sake — the Bolt joins the alternative fuel fray with little doubt about its electric origins.

Because unlike the Volt, which features a gas engine (it doesn't send power to the wheels directly but essentially recharges the battery pack on the fly), the Bolt is powered purely by electrons.

The 60-kilowatt-hour battery pack, a lithium-ion unit, spans the entire length of the car's cabin and can be plugged into Levels I, II or III charging stations. Using the former means long charging times, while the latter, known as DC Fast Charging, can top the battery up with 145 kilometres of range in about 30 minutes, or juice it up completely in about two hours.

Topping the battery up completely using a Level II charger, meanwhile, takes a little less than 10 hours and provides an estimated range of 383 kilometres.

Departing Menlo Park, Calif., with a fully charged battery our tester was more than fit for an extended tour of the rain-soaked San Francisco Bay Area. With a roundabout journey spanning about 160 km on the day's docket, battery life was of little concern.

With the instant torque provided by the electric powertrain, the Bolt offered impressive acceleration — a useful tool not for racing along city streets, but rather when passing and merging.

The electrified gusto did, however, combine well with the Bolt's responsive ride, a product of wheels that sit as near as possible to the corners, and low centre of gravity, created by the battery pack, to have a little bit of fun when called upon.

The battery pack's low positioning in the car isn't always smile-inducing, though. Tipping the scales at 435 kilograms, it creates a weight imbalance in the Bolt that can lead to a see-sawing effect over uneven pavement, something that became quickly evident on the Bay Area's roly-poly highways.

It's definitely not a deal-breaker, but does take some getting used to — particularly for those who are new to electric vehicles.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 CHEVROLET BOLT REVIEW

THE BASICS

Motor: Single motor drive unit
Output: 200 hp, 266 lb-ft
Transmission: Fixed ratio
Battery Size: 60 kWh
Estimated Range: 383 kilometres
Price: Starts at $42,795 (before available incentives)

LOVE IT

- Silky smooth acceleration
- Relative lack of range anxiety
- Bright and open cabin

LEAVE IT

- Jarring regenerative brakes
- Cost of active safety options

What we know about the 2019 Explorer

SUVS

Debut may come as early as 2017 L.A. Auto Show

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Compared to its 2018 counterpart shown here, the 2019 Ford Explorer is expected to get a new platform and a similar look. CONTRIBUTED

Ford is working hard on the next generation of its popular Explorer SUV.

When it comes to mid-sized SUVs, none sells better than the Ford Explorer in the U.S. — and for good reason. The popular seven-seater has been a staple in the American automaker's lineup since the early 1990s and now the sixth-generation model is in development.

Although it will go on sale as a 2019 model year, there's a bit we already know about the next-generation SUV as spy photographers have caught a prototype testing.

It rides on a new platform

The 2019 Ford Explorer is expected to ride on a new platform called "D6." Currently it's underpinned by the D4 platform also found on the Ford Flex and Lincoln MKT, but look for the D6 to make an appearance in several of Ford's models in the future. It's believed that the new platform will take advantage of lightweight materials like aluminum, similar to what Ford did with its popular F-150 pickup. In addition, rumours suggest it can be configured for front-, rear- and all-wheel drive, but don't expect it to go rear-wheel drive. For now, it's believed it will continue to be offered with front-wheel drive as standard and all-wheel drive available as an option.

It will likely lose its naturally aspirated V6 engine

Like the refreshed Ford Mustang, the automaker is expected to drop the naturally aspirated V6 engine from the Ford Explorer's lineup. Look to see the 2.3-litre four cylinder and 3.5-litre V6 EcoBoost engines live on, with slight updates to enhance performance and fuel economy. The deletion of the naturally aspirated V6 will help boost the average fuel economy and emissions across the entire Explorer range.

Look for it to debut in late 2017 or early 2018

There's a possibility Ford will debut the 2019 Explorer at the 2017 L.A. Auto Show, but it's more likely it will bow at the 2018 Detroit Auto Show. Either way, it should go on sale in summer 2018 as a 2019 model year.

Styling will be evolutionary rather than revolutionary

Although it's still hard to see with the heavily camouflage concealing the prototype, the new Explorer won't see any drastic styling changes.

The focus will be on using aluminum to shed weight, helping make it more fuel efficient as well as taking advantage of the new platform.

Some would say the fifth-generation model did enough to change the popular SUV's styling that debuted as a 2011 model year. Needless to say that's several years ago and by the time the new model bows, it will be a welcomed change even if it's not overwhelming.

It will continue to sell well

Last year, the Ford Explorer sold 248,507 units, making it the 14th overall best seller in the U.S.

It's a safe assumption that regardless of how Ford decides to style the Explorer, it will continue to sell well among the midsize SUV segment, especially for shoppers looking for seven seats. Currently the model starts from $32,605 including destination ($35,039 in Canada), but don't expect it to see any sort of major price hike when the new model is introduced.

STATS

Sales

Last year, the Ford Explorer sold 248,507 units, making it the 14th overall best seller in the U.S.

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Mark Johnson's 206-day #Letmecaddieforyou Twitter campaign is a success as Sergio Garcia will let the Englishman assist him in a Sept. 27 pro-am

LeBron on offence in war of words

NBA

Cavs star hits back against Barkley's criticism

Cavaliers forward LeBron James elevates for a dunk against Mavericks forward Dwight Powell on Monday night in Dallas. BRANDON WADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James is done bowing to Sir Charles.

After he was criticized by Charles Barkley for questioning Cleveland's front office, James tore into the former NBA star and opinionated TV commentator on Monday night following a loss in Dallas. James not only countered what was said about him but he also attacked Barkley's character for some off-the-court missteps.

"I'm not going to let him disrespect my legacy like that," James told ESPN after the Cavs lost 104-97 to Dallas, dropping the defending champions to 7-8 in January. "I'm not the one who threw somebody through a window. I never spit on a kid. I never had unpaid debt in Las Vegas. I never said, 'I'm not a role model.' I never showed up to All-Star Weekend on Sunday because I was in Vegas all weekend partying.

"All I've done for my entire career is represent the NBA the right way. Fourteen years, never got in trouble. Respected the game. Print that."

Barkley has never been one to hold back his opinion on James or any other player, but the 11-time all-star was particularly critical of James last week after Cleveland's star complained about Cleveland's roster being "top-heavy" and questioning whether the team's front office was satisfied with one title.

Barkley said James was "whiny" and "inappropriate" and wondered about his motives. Barkley called James "the best player in the world" but wondered if he really wanted to compete. James initially dismissed Barkley, saying he was only trying to boost TV ratings. Barkley works as an in-studio host for TNT.

However, James decided he couldn't let those comments go and turned on Barkley, who never won an NBA title.

> **I'm tired of biting my tongue. There's a new sheriff in town.**
> LeBron James

"He's a hater. What makes what he says credible? Because he's on TV?" James said. "I know he wanted to retire a long time ago, but he can't. He's stuck up on that stage every week."

James also said if Barkley wants to continue any discussion, he knows where to find him.

"If this makes him want to talk to me, the schedule's out there," James said. "He knows every road arena I'll be in. Don't just come up to me at all-star and shake my hand and smile."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Kraft fires shots over Deflategate

Robert Kraft is pulling his punches over "Deflategate."

Well, some of them.

While the New England Patriots owner and once close confidant of NFL commissioner Roger Goodell wants to celebrate yet another trip to the Super Bowl this week, he also couldn't back down from a challenge Monday night to address the whole mess. So Kraft took a couple of shots during the Patriots' availability, yet also made sure not to temper the festive mood.

> **There's a time and a place to talk about problems. I'm going to stay focused on being here.**
> Robert Kraft

"Everybody wants to protect their family," Kraft said about the deflated footballs case from the 2014 AFC championship game that resulted in Tom Brady's four-game suspension, a $1-million fine for the franchise and the loss of its first-round draft pick in 2016.

"I think our family was involved, or accused of being involved, in something that was mishandled and became inappropriate. Sometimes in a complicated situation in business, people start pointing fingers, and we want to assure everyone that we are together."

Kraft then cited a Hebrew saying from the Old Testament.

"When tough times come," he translated, "there's nothing bad that happens that doesn't have good associated with it.

"In a way, that galvanized our team." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bills won't retain NFL's first female assistant coach

The Buffalo Bills will not retain Kathryn Smith, the first full-time female assistant coach in the NFL.

Smith is one of 14 assistants who will not remain on new coach Sean McDermott's staff, the Bills announced on Tuesday. McDermott was hired on Jan. 11 to replace Rex Ryan, who was fired prior to the Bills' season finale.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police ready for protests at Super Bowl, says chief

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo says authorities are ready to handle any protests that might occur during Super Bowl week in response to President Donald Trump's executive order on refugees and immigration.

Acevedo said that dealing with the potential for demonstrations has always been part of security planning efforts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Epping happy to make a difference off the ice

CURLING

Discreet Grand Slam champ talks about coming out

It has been over five years since curler John Epping told family, friends, and peers in his sport's community that he was gay.

"I got a ton of messages," he said. "And the way people tried to relate it to me was just to say, 'Hey it's OK, we've got your back.' It came in so many different ways. It was pretty special."

Epping knew there was growing interest in his story about being a gay athlete in a men's team sport, but held off on sharing the news more widely as he didn't want it to be a distraction for his team. So there was no news conference, no statement, no television feature.

"If somebody asks, I just talk about it," Epping told The Canadian Press in his first in-depth interview on the subject. "And I know I probably should do more of these because it can help people. But I just look at it like, I haven't thought about going around broadcasting that I'm a gay person curling.

"This is my life. This is me, it's a part of life, it's what it is."

The number of active elite male athletes who have revealed that they're gay has risen in recent years, although it's still a rarity at the professional level and in the curling world. For Epping, it's a bonus to weigh in on a subject that could make things easier for someone — a curler, athlete, or anybody — who might be thinking about following his lead.

> **I hope people see that as a good thing or a positive thing, that there's a gay athlete out in their sport, in their prime.**
> John Epping

"If it can make a difference for one person reading this story or even just one person in my life, if I can influence or help in a positive way — right on," he said. "That's fine with me. That's great." While it was difficult to initially come out, Epping felt it worked out very well. The three-time Grand Slam winner said he received "loads of support" from teammates, friends, family, and sponsors.

"I would say I was very, very lucky and spoiled," he said after a recent practice session at the Leaside Curling Club. "I hope it would be that way for everybody but I know it's not. I know we still have a long way to come in sports in general."

Epping, a 33-year-old native of Peterborough, Ont., won his first Grand Slam in 2008 — The National — as a second on Wayne Middaugh's team. His first Slam title as a skip came in 2012 at the Players' Championship and he won the Canadian Open in 2015 with his current lineup of Mat Camm, Patrick Janssen and Tim March.

The 2006 Canadian mixed champion has also played in the last two Olympic Trials.

"I think I (should be) in my prime the next four or five years. I hope people see that as a good thing or a positive thing, that there's a gay athlete out in their sport, in their prime. I think that's good to see."

His rink is currently ranked seventh in the world. Epping also plays mixed doubles — a discipline that will make its Olympic debut next year — and holds the No. 8 spot in the Canadian rankings with Lisa Weagle of Ottawa.

Epping serves as an ambassador for You Can Play, an organization that works to ensure safety and inclusion for all who participate in sports, including LGBTQ athletes, coaches, and fans.

"It's great to be involved with an organization like that, and trying to promote that and spread that," he said. "But like I said I've been lucky."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Epping came out to his friends and family about five years ago. MICHAEL BURNS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Enchilada Stuffed Sweet Potatoes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You won't miss the taco shell once you combine sweet potatoes with a meat filling that delivers rich flavours.

Ready in 1 hour
Prep time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 4 medium sweet potatoes
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb ground beef
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- ¼ tsp ground dry mustard
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp garlic salt
- ¼ tsp dried oregano
- ½ a 156 ml can of tomato paste
- butter
- Monterey Jack Cheese
- sour cream
- cilantro

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Scrub sweet potatoes and pierce a few times with a fork. Place on baking sheet and bake 40 – 45 minutes, until easily pierced with a fork.

2. Meanwhile, add oil to a medium-sized pan over medium-low heat. Add garlic and onion and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes. Add beef to the pan, sprinkle with salt and sauté until cooked through. Drain fat if needed/desired. Add chili powder, cumin, mustard, cinnamon, garlic salt and oregano and stir. Add tomato paste and stir again until incorporated. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Remove potatoes once they've cooked through, slice down middle and, using a fork, break up filling and add a bit of butter. Spoon enchilada filling over top. Dress with additional toppings and enjoy

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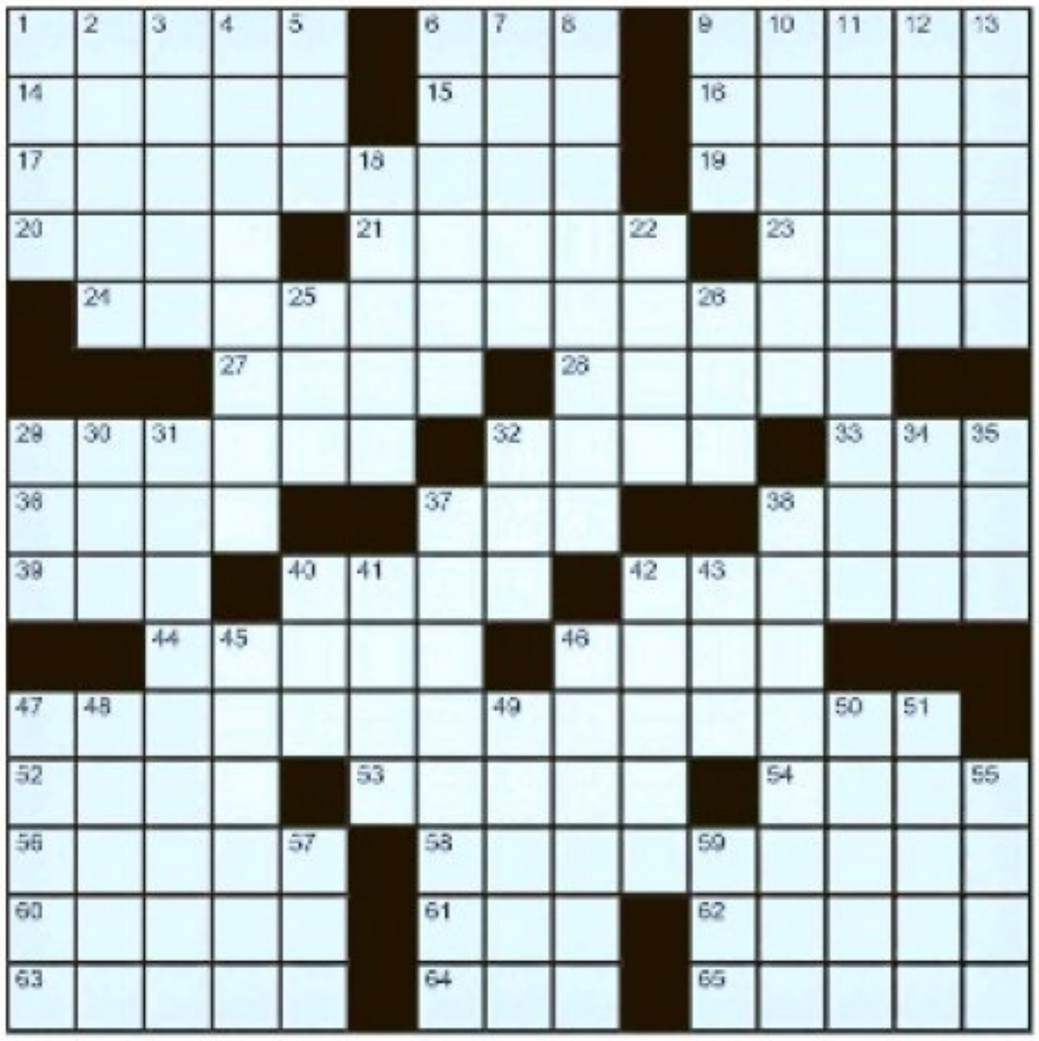
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Renault 5 supermini, as it was also known: 2 wds.
6. 'Start With Trust' is this org.'s slogan
9. Willie of "Charles in Charge"
14. "It's __ to the finish!"
15. Swiss river, variantly
16. Letting-in-the-cold problem
17. Soup/salad/sandwich setting
19. Astrology sign
20. Lhasa __ (Small dog)
21. Open, as a cage
23. Eight: Spanish
24. Montreal-born "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary recently became a candidate for the what in Canadian politics?: 2 wds.
27. Everly Brothers: "All I Have to __ Dream"
28. Expletive eliminator
29. Gain more sense: 2 wds.
32. Orbison and Rogers
33. Noun modifier, briefly
36. Listen
37. White tie suit, commonly
38. Between harbours
39. "Little __ lot?" (Quantity query)
40. "Dirty Jobs" host Mike
42. Coffee machine's daily change
44. Play the radio loudly
46. Release-from-jail money
47. Waterway between mainland Labrador and Newfoundland island: abbr. + wd. + wd. + wd.
52. Linked
53. Flight segment
54. Pub order
56. The end.
58. Super-small
60. Moved as molasses
61. Utmost degree
62. Someone sore
63. Fashion designer's creation
64. "__ whiz!"
65. Tractor company, John __

DOWN
1. "__ Land" (2016)
2. Spew as a volcano
3. Nova Scotia community near Chedabucto Bay
4. Granted via agreement
5. Showbiz practice run, briefly
6. 'B.' of US President Lyndon B. Johnson's name
7. "La __" by Ritchie Valens
8. Loaf storer
9. Dictionary abbr.
10. Song-like
11. Go by in the parade: 2 wds.
12. D-J link
13. Brownstone stairway
18. Spring flower
22. Be dependent
25. Toi: English
26. Home [abbr.]
29. UN wellness agency
30. Occupational suffix
31. Beach's refreshing wind: 2 wds.
32. Regret
34. Actor, Billy __ Williams
35. Jam container
37. President Trump's techie hobby
38. Seasoning in jerk chicken
40. Brit. fliers
41. Eyeballs
42. Figure in enchanted tales, olde-style
43. Sundial number
45. Family of Archie's comical friend Veronica
46. __ Spirit (Noel Coward play)
47. Rose to one's feet
48. Indian Ocean arm, __ Sea
49. Espresso style
50. Willowy
51. Participate
55. Pericles, Prince of __
57. Dates not as ancient as BCs
59. Edible no longer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today, you have the advantage over all the other signs because the Moon is in your sign. This means you can ask the universe for a favour. (It also makes you more emotional than usual.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes today, and that's just fine. You have been so high-viz lately that you need some privacy.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will enjoy schmoozing with others today, especially a female acquaintance. You might discuss future travel plans with someone, because you definitely need a change of scenery.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Private details about your personal life might become public today for some reason. People are talking about you. Let's hope it's good stuff. (Fingers crossed.)

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something different today, because you are restless and in the mood for a bit of adventure. Obviously, if you can travel somewhere, this will please you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Focus on red-tape details regarding inheritances, taxes, debt and shared property. Get information so that you can better handle disputes about these matters.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Because the Moon is opposite your sign today, this means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. In two weeks, when the Moon is in your own sign, you have the edge.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do whatever you can to get better organized today, because this will please you. Tidy up messy areas both at home and at work.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a playful, flirtatious day for you! Enjoy schmoozing with others. Sports events, fun activities with children and social outings will delight.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Home, family and your personal life are your top priorities today. A conversation with a female relative (Mom?) could be significant.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
When talking to others today, you want to get down to the nitty-gritty of things. You don't want superficial chitchat about the weather. You also want to express your feelings.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Money and financial issues are your concerns today. However, be careful if you are shopping, because you might shop according to your wishes, which really are not practical. Keep your receipts.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

1	6			9				5
			8		2			6
				3				
	5						4	
7		4				1		8
	2						3	
				8				
9			6		5			
3				1			8	9

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6	2	5	4	7	3	9	8	1
7	1	2	3	8	9	6	5	4
5	9	4	7	6	1	8	3	2
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	5	9	8	1	4	3	7	6
8	4	3	6	5	7	2	1	9
1	6	7	9	3	2	5	4	8

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